



The Amateur in You, Part 1

What have you been pondering?



Only a Technician

You might have heard it from somebody announcing their insecurity or apologizing for their shortcoming : *I'm only a Technician*. So, what are you, as a Technician licensee permitted to do in the world of amateur radio? As it turns out, quite a lot.

Here's a short list of some of the privileges afforded you when you earn a Technician class license:

- Organize, govern, and operate a net
- Install, own, and operate a repeater
- Install a tower and any kind of antenna
- Communicate on HF
- All VHF, UHF, and GHz bands
- 1500 watts on all VHF and higher bands
- IRLP, EchoLink, APRS, and Winlink
- POTA, SOTA, DXpeditions, SES
- CW, AM, FM, SSB, FT8
- Work any and all digital modes
- Build any and all amateur radio gear
- Talk all over the country and the world
- DX with any legal country
- ARES, RACES, Skywarn, AUXCOMM
- Sporadic-E, meteor scatter, aurora
- Tropospheric scatter, gray-line, skip
- Communicate through any satellite
- Communicate with the ISS
- Earth-Moon-Earth operation

As you can see, there's a lot you can do, and unfortunately many find it surprising. But, it doesn't stop there.

- Set up an emergency radio station
- Hold an SET (simulated emergency training)
- Allow third-party operation
- Teach amateur radio classes
- Initiate and hide a fox hunt transmitter
- Present ham radio topics to the public*
- Relay in behalf of any person

- Represent ham radio to government
- Apply for a vanity call sign
- Start and operate a ham radio club
- Host an amateur radio activity
- Promote ham radio in every way
- Author ham radio articles and publications
- Mentor ("elmer") another ham or friend
- Provide weather and traffic updates*
- Save somebody's life, maybe your own

And on and on. **While you're providing public information updates, be careful to avoid one-way broadcasting and news collection for on-air distribution.*

Finally

There is absolutely no shame in being a Technician class licensee; you have the world at your fingertips. You have the freedom to upgrade, but if you don't, you can still perform a lifetime of magic on and off the radio.

Amateur Radio Technician Class Licensing

For 2022 through 2026 License Examinations

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